

# Great Bay Siltation Commission Meeting

Great Bay Discovery Center, Stratham, NH  
March 6, 2008, 1:30 PM

**Members:** Rep. Judith Spang, Commission Chair, Durham  
Rep. Dennis Abbott, Newmarket  
Cynthia Copeland, Strafford Regional Planning Commission  
Ted Diers, NH Coastal Program  
Doug Grout, NH Fish & Game Department  
Ray Konisky, The Nature Conservancy  
Tracy Shattuck, PDA – Division of Ports & Harbors  
Larry Ward, University of New Hampshire  
Alison Watts, Newfields Conservation Commission

**Other Attendees:** David Cedarholm, Town of Durham  
David Funk, Great Bay Stewards  
Christian Williams, NH Coastal Program

**Guest Speaker:** Fay Rubin, Complex Systems Research Center - UNH

## Summary:

Chairperson Spang asked Ray Konisky, chair of the “Effects of Sedimentation” (“Effects”) Subcommittee to update members on the subcommittee’s progress toward completing the tasks identified in its work plan. Mr. Konisky stated that the subcommittee has created a matrix identifying a number of potential impacts (e.g., environmental, recreational, commercial, & social) associated with siltation in the Great Bay Estuary. The subcommittee is searching for documentation of specific impacts and working to identify information gaps. Through these efforts the subcommittee hopes to fill as many gaps as possible so that it may further consolidate its impact matrix.

Chairperson Spang, a member of the “Causes of Sedimentation” (“Causes”) Subcommittee, stated that the Causes subcommittee has focused its attention on land use practices in the Lamprey and Oyster River watersheds. She stated the topic of land use change is an ideal segway into the presentation by guest speaker Fay Rubin of the Complex Systems Research Center at the University of New Hampshire.

Ms. Rubin gave a presentation entitled “Land Use Change: Extracts from the GRANIT Database.” Ms. Rubin began with a brief summary of NH GRANIT, New Hampshire’s statewide geographic information system clearinghouse, including its mission and an overview of the variety of geospatial services that NH GRANIT provides. She then discussed in detail each of the land use and land cover datasets available through NH GRANIT. The datasets include: 1) *Generalized Land Cover* which utilizes LANDSAT Thematic Mapper imagery; 2) *Generalized Land Use* which utilizes black and white aerial photography from 1962, 1974, and 1998; 3) *Detailed Land Use* which utilizes 2005 aerial photography; 4) *Impervious Surface Mapping* which utilizes LANDSAT Thematic Mapper imagery; and 5) *Stream Buffer Characterization* which utilizes a variety of datasets. See referred members to the data mapper

section of the NH GRANIT web site at [www.mapper.granit.unh.edu](http://www.mapper.granit.unh.edu). Following the presentation Ms. Rubin fielded questions from commission members.

Chairperson Spang then asked the commission's two subcommittees to assemble and continue their efforts to address the issues identified in their work plans

The next commission meeting was scheduled for **Monday, April 7, 2008 at 1:00 PM** at the New Hampshire Coastal Program (NHCP) Pease Office in Portsmouth. The date and time of the next meeting, including directions to the NHCP Pease Office, will be posted on the commission's web page at [http://des.nh.gov/Coastal/ocean\\_policy.html](http://des.nh.gov/Coastal/ocean_policy.html).

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:45 PM.